Recent Hike in Fertilizer prices in Karnataka

512. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Karnataka has been wrost affected due to the recent hike in fertilizer prices as reported in India Today of 15th February, 1993; and

(b) if so, whether Government would come to the rescue of the small and marginal farmers in the State by providing the State Government with adequate funds to operate the fertilizer concession scheme atleast till 1993-94?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) and (b): There has been a decline in the consumption of decontrolled fertilisers in Karnataka as compared to previous Rabi season. The Central Government released Rs. 17.53 crores to Karnataka for extending concession on the sale of decontrolled fertilisers to all farmers. In addition, a sum of Rs. 36.90 crores has been earmarked towards schemes to benefit small & marginal farmers during the current year out of which Rs. 15.70 crores has so far been released to the State Government. No decision has been taken by the Government to extend the concession for 1993-94.

New Crop Insurance Scheme

513. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to introduce a New Crop Insurance Scheme;

(b) if so, the details therof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government have a proposal to introduce the scheme as a pilot project in one district of each State;

(d) if so, the state-wise names of such districts; and

(e) by when the scheme is proposed to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. It has been devided that while the existing Comprehensive Crop Insurance Schem (CCIS) may continue, a plot scheme charging acturial rates of premia and covering all farmers and all crops may be implemented in one district of every State, preferably at low unit areas.

(d) and (e): The details of the scheme and identification of districts are yet to be finalised.

Demand and Supply of Edible Oil

514. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a wide gap between the demand and supply of edible oil in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken to increase the production of oil seeds; and

(d) what other steps are being taken to bridge the gap?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) and (b): The gap betwen demand and supply of edible oils in the country has narrowed down during the past

few years due to substantial increase in the production of oilseeds. The details of the production of oilseeds and import of edible oils over the past seven years are as under:—

(Qty in Lakh MT)

Oil Year	Production of Oilseeds	Edible oil Imported
1985-86	108.3	11.80
1986-87	112.7	15.00
1987-88	126.5	18.19
1988-89	180.3	3.72
1989-90	169.2	6.07
1990-91	186.1	1.01
1991-92	182.8	1.68

(c) During the Seventh Plan period, National Oilseeds Development Programme (NODP) and the Oilseeds Production Thrust Programme (OPTP) were undertaken to boost the production of oilseeds. In order to improve the effectiveness and coverage, both these programmes were merged into one Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) in 1990-91. OPP is being continued during Eighth Plan

(4) The Technology Mission on Oilseeds developed an integrated policy with four pronged strategy covering crop production, post harvest technology, farmer services|inputs and market intervention prices support to bring about self.sufficiency in oilseeds and increase exports from this sector. A scheme has been formulated to bring 80,000Ha. identified areas under the oil plam cultivation during the Eighth Plan period.

Implementation of CAT Decision on ICAR Scientists

515. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 3842 given in the Rajya Sabha on 18th December, 1992 and state:

(a) whether the said judgement by the Central Administrative Tribunal Principal Bench in case No. 511|90 has been factually implemented with regard to counting of "S" grade|equivalent grades service specifically for the promotion of earstwhile S-1 Scientists (Scale Rs. 700-1300) in position on 31st December, 1985;

(b) whether it is a fact that Scientific Staff Association through the said petition has drawn the specific attention of Government to this matter and has made complaint against any